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coward can sit down and laugh, and that is all he can do."

It is only fair to Colonel JOHNSON to make clear that he did not apply the opprobrious term of coward to Mr. MADSEN, but to the careless members who laughed when he invited the ex-Alderman outside. There is a sense of humor even in Congress. Colonel JOHNSON is a six footer, always down to fighting weight, and so impervious to the thought of danger that he goes up in aeroplanes with army officers. Moreover he has a war record in Kentucky, which is creditable to him as a champion of law and order. Ex-Alderman MADSEN, as he modestly said, is not a prizefighter; nor is he a fighter of any kind, except for and against appropriators. Nothing could be more ludicrous than the Hon. MARTIN BARNARD MADSEN going "out" with Colonel BEN JOHNSON to settle a personal difficulty. Of course members with a sense of humor laughed.

All's well that ends well. After the session was over friends intervened, and through the arbitration of Judge HARDWICK of Georgia the Colonel and the ex-Aldermen were brought together, apologized handsomely to each other, and clasped hands in amity. If the altercation had been over an extra biplane for the army or navy we could understand Colonel JOHNSON's asperity, but to call a gentleman out for a mere motorcycle seemed hardly worth while. Fortunately the ex-Alderman did not "go up in the air," his training in the Chicago City Council stood him in good stead.

We are glad to see that Colonel JOHNSON has since made the amende honorable to Mr. MADSEN on the floor of the House, generously taking all the blame of the unpardonable scene upon himself, and appealing to members to forget the incident and dwell together in fraternal good will.

Hydrophobia and Superstitions About It.

Compared to diseases like cholera and smallpox hydrophobia seems insignificant. Although it is numerically so, the anxiety and terror it inspires and the loss of time and money incident to a Pasteur treatment away from home furnish a combination of conditions which go far to lead great significance to hydrophobia and to make efforts for its suppression imperative. Even the dog lovers may be moved by the fact that thousands of valuable animals, besides the pets that are valuable to their owners, are annually sacrificed to rabies. In 1908, for instance, two large hunt clubs in the United States were forced to destroy their entire kennels of valuable dogs. The main impelling force for more earnest and active interest in hydrophobia, however, rests in the fact that it is the most easily prevented infectious disease known. Popular ignorance alone presents almost insurmountable obstacles to the entire abolition of this disease. Some of the superstitions entertained by otherwise intelligent people are pernicious.

1. That killing the dog would preserve the life of the bitten individual. Last summer the intelligent superintendent of a large estate in the Adirondacks burst into the room of a physician who happened to be a visitor with the anxious inquiry if it would be safe not to kill a dog which had just bitten a child and the owner of which preferred to be discharged to losing the pet dog. The latter was kept in a cage formerly occupied by a pet bear for ten days, and not showing any sign of rabies was freed. It is not generally known that a dog under suspicion must be detained at least ten days where he is not liable to injure any one in order to ascertain if he is suffering from rabies. All anxiety regarding the possibility of the disease developing at some distant period may thus be removed, even if the dog develops rabies within several succeeding weeks. Nor is it known that after the lapse of one year no apprehension of rabies need be felt.

2. The belief in the "madstone," which usually consists of a conglomeration of hair and vegetable fibre obtained from the stomachs of various animals, is another destructive fetish. Immediate cauterization and Pasteur treatment are thus deferred or not resorted to, and the patient's chances for preventing rabies are minimized. It is almost incredible that in this enlightened age families have kept these madstones for generations with almost religious earnestness, and that people have made long journeys and paid large sums to obtain their benefits.

3. Dogs that should be suspected are allowed to go abroad because they do not manifest dread of water. It is not generally known that animals have in the early stages of the disease crossed streams and drunk freely of the water. Fear of water is always present in human rabies, but rarely if ever in the canine in any stage of the disease.

4. Another dangerous fallacy is the belief in the dog days. While more dogs are likely to be bitten during the less inclement months, when more are running in the open, the difference is negligible; there is a difference of only 6 per cent. between the second and last quarters of the year.

5. The reality of rabies is doubted by some persons, even by physicians. Ask the latter for a reason and they will say they have never seen a case. The absurdity of such a reason is obvious when it is considered that the Surgeon-General's library in Washington had up to 1895 catalogued 2,738 books, monographs, &c., by 2,447 authors, that ARISTOTLE 400 B. C. clearly described the disease, and CÆLIUS in the first century A. D. coined the word "hydrophobia." It is mentioned in Ovid, Plutarch and other classics. The infectious character of rabies was discovered in 1804 by ZINKE, and PASTEREUR devised in 1885 the preventive inoculation, which has reduced mortality to a fraction of 1 per cent. The fact that occasionally a case occurs like that reported in THE SUN of January 14 is seized by the anti-vivisectionists, who love their fellow dog better than their fellow man, as proof of the futility of sacrificing animals in the effort to ameliorate sickness and prevent death. It cannot be disputed, however, that less than one-half per cent. of inoculations fail.

6. Some even claim that hydrophobia is more prevalent since Pasteur institutes have been established. This absurd impression is similar to the idea that appendicitis has become known only since its successful surgical treatment was discovered. Fortunately no disease is more susceptible of prevention.

The Doom of the Waiter.

Has the time come to say good-by to our friend the waiter? Has the moment arrived to bestow on the servant of our noon lunches a final largesse, accept in return that condescending acknowledgment which comes where generosity keeps pace with expectation, rather than deserving, and turn to the newer, better times, wherein a machine and not a man provides?

If the voracious announcement of a London journal, fortified with photographs, is to be accepted, this time of farewell has come. Only a few more days remain in which it will be permitted to enter our familiar restaurant, accept the daily tribute to vanity which the head waiter's look of recognition brings and march to the accustomed seat guarded against the common herd, the tipsy rabble, by that faithful, beaded footed, futile waiter, whom a cloak of invisibility encompasses when time is short, but whose ubiquity imposes when the end has come, that is the real end, the tip.

Hereafter, so the London notice forecasts, our entrance will be unattended. Instead of the salvo of salutes from descending grades of waiters we shall march straight to our table, grasp the lever of a clocklike machine, not unfamiliar already in a few hotels in this country, but newly brought to full perfection, and turning the hands to the circumference where appear the appropriate labels of meat and drink, summon the desired delicacy.

Then, presently, instantaneously perhaps, from nowhere, borne on swift wings, rising from the floor like EBERHART, the Great's famous table, by tube or tunnel, there will appear the food but not the waiter.

How many things will vanish with the waiter! The tip, dearest evil of all the corruption of social existence, daily subject of protest in the press, weekly occasion for denunciation in the pulpit, the vice all men abhor, and, enjoy, placing their coins with secret ostentation upon the plate to challenge the admiration of compation and purchase the approval of the beneficiary.

Gone too will be the daily banter, the habitual unbending, the small condescension disguised as extreme good humor, the slight patronage which is the essence of true democracy. For our favorite pleasantries, long ago become a custom, the required comment of the weather, the unflinching criticism of the menu, there will be substituted only the silence of the machine, the unsatisfying, unstimulating tinkle of the bell which rings once, and then no more, until the appetite's expansion claims another reward.

A stupid fellow, this friend the waiter, but still a sly one, the maker of many miracles, of landings of china and earthquakes of metal, yet able to gauge to a fraction the faults, the not unattractive weaknesses, foibles, harmless vanities of his charges. Will a machine supply his place? Will food mechanically delivered make up for all that now takes the place of food? Is it permitted to us to doubt?

Troubles of the Too Rich Boy.

Sad the tale in the newspapers of the poor little rich boy, surrounded with lackeys, diligently fenced against kidnappers, watched in his drives and rides as if he were a visiting sovereign threatened by anarchists, hedged and splendored, initiated before his teens into the order of the bared.

To be a rich man, in moderation, and so without overbearing publicity and espionage, is a fate that most of us would welcome with open and eager arms, but a rich boy loses so much fun! To be cleaner than it is the nature of boys to be, to be tracked by footmen, maids, governesses, to have no chance at beautiful fights, throwing rocks and language; to be free from the casual intimacies and sudden combats of the race of boys; to be civilized while most of the rest of them are absolutely savage; to have no collection of black eyes or marbles won from dangerous, disreputable and fascinating "bad boys," to look like "a good boy," an impossible boy, that nightmare of youth, recommended and secretly despised by parents and thumped "in the snoot" wherever and whenever a chance shows its forelock by the wicked children to whom he is an example; if rich boys are like that, excuse us. Instead, after a youth of bracing and hilarious poverty, we shall inherit a million from some distant and centennial relative.

What does a rich, a too rich boy have in his pockets? Surely not the museum of pickings and keepings which the poor and bad boy has always with him.

Madison Square Garden.

There is, it appears, compensation for the failure of the promoters to complete the financing of the loft buildings to occupy the site of Madison Square Garden. "Deliberate delay may be wise cunctation, and slowness no slothfulness." Not that the delay in this matter has been deliberate. But it has sufficed to make sundry circus managers reinstate the inquiry of DANIEL WEBSTER, "Where am I to go?" There is good hope that they may not have to go at all, but may stay, and this announcement will be very welcome to the thousands to whom "the place was called Gan Eden, or the Garden of Delight," and who have cast useful glances backward, like our first parents, at the thought of being driven out of their Eden and kept out by real estate speculators with a flaming sword.

"Circuses" have been in fact the chief civic function of the Garden. To accommodate the Horse Show, which

had been incommenced, up to 1880, by the train shed which the Harlem road left on the site when Commodore VAN DERBILT consolidated it with the Hudson River and moved its station up to Forty-second street, was a main object of the new building. It was equipped with appliances of accommodation for man and beast, primarily designed for the Horse Show but equally available for the circus. THEODORE THOMAS, who like other conductors had been doomed to give concerts in it, and who before its erection had been even reduced to giving a "Wagner Festival" in the Seventh Regiment Armory, wrote, in his old age: "Our monster American halls and theatres are fit only for mass meetings and horse shows. Orchestral music of every school is ineffective in them." "Mass meetings and horse shows" are of the entertainments for which the arena offered unique provision. The most memorable of the mass meetings was possibly the occasion on which MR. WILLIAM J. BRYAN made his first raid into what he so tactfully called the enemy's country, what time the enemy, having struggled fiercely to get into the arena, were struggling as fiercely, within ten minutes after he began to speak, to get out again. But horse shows and all that they imply have been the constant demand which the arena supplied, and the generic "horse show" is likely to outlast the obsolescent animal after which it is named.

It is the arena only which may fairly be said to be indispensable civically. It is the tower alone which may be said to be indispensable architecturally. No body cares much about the minor places of amusement at the Madison avenue end, as is shown by the fact that they have not been able to attract enough people so far to the east and south of the actual amusement centre to pay their expenses. A comparatively shallow building along the western front of the arena would do no harm. With only an entrance reserved sufficient to indicate as well as to give access to the amphitheatre behind, such a fringe of building might be prefixed to the arena, by the right architect, as would prevent the present Madison avenue front from being regretted, and would indeed be much less hurtful than the apartment houses which flank the entrance to the Metropolitan Opera House. The office building eight stories high, which is suggested would not fatally obscure the tower, as anybody may see who looks at the tower in conjunction with the buildings of that height almost immediately to the south of it. It is by all means to be hoped that the tower may be preserved and the fringe of building stopped short of it. There seems to be no insuperable obstacle to its preservation, though no doubt there is a difficulty in finding a profitable use for it. To honeycomb it with windows, after the manner of the ordinary office building, and thereby destroy its massiveness of wall, would spoil if not ruin its architectural effect. But it might become an admirable "tower of records" for a corporation in want of such a thing without any impairment whatever of its effect.

The two things about the Garden which it is very desirable to keep are the arena as an object of utility and the tower as a thing of beauty.

Railways in the Holy Land are an old story now, but there is a certain novelty in the announcement that the Dead Sea is at last navigated by a motor boat.

Spend wisdom money where you acquire it. *Washington Herald.*

So wisdom cries out in vain. For what says the proverb? Money is good to spend and New York is good to spend in.

What a fine "old world" look Old South Middle has and what parvenu it makes of the magnificences that have supplanted the other half of the handsome dignified brethren of Brick Row.

Boston has the opportunity to preserve to her first Cardinal by helping to preserve the Church of San Clemente from which Cardinal CONNELLEY takes his title. The church is remarkable even in Rome as a compendium of historical archeology. It is made up of two basilicas, one built over the other, and the lower one, erected in the third century after Christ and the meeting place of one of the first Councils of the Church, is the most perfect example of an early Christian basilica in Rome. The upper church dates from the twelfth century and contains important frescoes by Masaccio. The foundation rests on a portion of the imperial wall of Rome, which holds part of a temple of MITRA, with the altar still in place, and this in turn is built on part of the walls of the Rome of the Republic.

The foundations have long been filled with water and there is danger that all the buildings on them may collapse. It is proposed to drain the water off by a large sewer, the foundation of which will cost \$150,000; of this a tenth has been subscribed. The scheme appeals to antiquarians and art lovers as much as to Catholics, for San Clemente is a treasure house of works of art that cannot be removed, mosaics and frescoes, as well as the buildings themselves, besides being a most interesting monument of early Christianity. The sum needed is small, so that it would be easy for Boston to perform a graceful act.

The Nuptial Utility of the Cigar Band.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: Who is this creature who signs himself "The Original Anti-Bride Man"? Does he seriously think of removing from cigars their only virtue? It is quite evident that he is not a father, but has he no friends with children who wish to marry their nurses? How, if you please, would these nuptial rights be carried out if the cigar bands were abolished? In the name of the children yet unborn, I say never.

A. H. B.

BROWN'S MILL IN THE PINES, N. J., January 20.

Bridge.

One looked ahead with anxious care. Foreseeing with precision, For each event that might befall, He made a due provision And this the sure that he preached He crossed the bridge before 'twas reached.

Another was of bolder stuff, Such petty worry spurning, He cast his die and staked his all Beyond all backward turning, Such was the daring of his mind He crossed and burned his bridge behind.

The third the caution of the first Among his assets reckoned, Combined with the fire of his degree The boldness of the second And thus equipped to do it right He played bridge morning, noon and night.

McLEANDER WILSON.

THE CANAL ZONE'S HEALTH.

A Reply to the Statement of the Secretary of War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Sir: In THE SUN of Friday the Honorable Secretary of War, Mr. Stimson, says in defence of the orders of the War Department which "in effect exempted reputable Christian Science practitioners from the necessity of being licensed doctors of medicine," that they "merely followed the legislation of a large and important number of States" on the ground that "obedience to the sanitary laws is exacted at the pain of criminal prosecution of every practitioner, whether medical or Christian Science." One of the most important of the regulations is involved in my query in the letter of January 14, "whether the public should not at least be protected against contagion and infection from unreported and unguarded diseases." The Secretary's defence is in reply to this question. It would be the height of temerity on my part to enter into a polemic contest, even if with a gentleman who is not only a great lawyer but who has proved his earnest championship of the public welfare at all times. But the best interests of suffering humanity demand this humble rejoinder.

My information is that "the large and important number of States" by the legislation of which the Secretary would justify his action consists of Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, South Dakota and Tennessee. If comparisons were not odious it might be averred that these are among the smallest and